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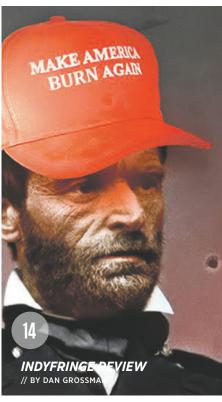


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BARFLY .. FREE WILL ASTROLOGY...



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BY WAYNE BERTSCH

NEXT WEEK

"THE Q:

Who's got the best wings in Indy?



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BEN ANGELO FACEBOOK Chatham Tap



JOSEPH OLAS TWITTER It's hard to top KSR

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Imcphee@nuvo.net @thelauramcphee Vegan wings at Sinking Ship



Dan Grossman ARTS EDITOR NEWS EDITOR dgrossman@nuvo.net rburgess@nuvo.net @robaburg Big City Grill & I have no idea, but I'm ready to learn. Lemonade



Rob Burgess Seth Johnson MUSIC EDITOR sjohnson@nuvo.net @sethvthem Chatham Tap



Ian McPhee SOUNDCHECK ian@nuvo.net KSR all damn day



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SPACE FORCE

BY MICHAEL LEPPERT // EDITORS@NUVO.NET

Politics have

obviously shifted

again, and fear of

unknowns is again

the top seller on

the market.

t sounds like a joke, but it can't be. If it were, Vice President Mike Pence would not have been the guy presenting it. He's iust not funny, at least not on purpose. But it is hilarious to me.

Pence took the lectern at the Pentagon on Thursday outlining the plan to add another branch to the military. They are calling it "Space Force."

Pence said "it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space." That's right. Space, the final frontier ... to boldly go where no man has gone before.

NASA spending as a percentage of the federal budget peaked in 1966 and has been in decline since. It has

been below 1 percent of the budget since the early '90s and flat through three administrations. But that spending was based on the pursuit of technology and exploration. Even after the fall of the Soviet Union, we kept working on the Space Shuttle program and other techno-exploratory things.

Why? Because learning stuff mattered, that's why.

Eventually, we got over the Soviet "threat" and politicians started seeing other priorities that were more pressing. Problems we still see today. Things like healthcare and hunger, education and the environment. They are all more prudent things in which to invest when talking to voters. But our politics have obviously shifted again, and fear of unknowns is again the top seller on the market.

Trump has to love the Space Force idea. It's way cooler than the old NASA stuff. Who wants to learn about the universe

when we can "dominate" it like Vice President Pence says we should?

This is really about quelling our innermost fears. Fears so deeply inside of us, most of us didn't even know we had them. By Labor Day, 40 percent of Americans will think the formation of this ridiculous sixth branch of the military is a good idea. Who are these people? The same folks who seem willing to believe anything this White House says.

Oh, and a bonus for the midterm elections is that Congress has to create that sixth branch. Now this can be an election issue for the entire U.S. House and a third

> of the U.S. Senate which is at stake in less than 90

Mike Braun, what do you think? It's sad you will have to support this. Charge up your lightsaber.

Yes, yes, let's spend some time talking about this one on the campaign trail for the next three months because it is the difference

maker in Lafayette and Seymour, Indiana.

We shouldn't joke though. We don't want to provoke some Space Invaders. And I'm not talking video game. I mean legit Asteroids blown up by a Klingon rocket ship, dueling with the Starship Enterprise or the Maltese Falcon. All of which will be peppering the country with laser shot mushroom clouds all across what will soon be the former Heartland.

Don't laugh. It could happen. N

Michael Leppert is a public and governmental affairs consultant in Indianapolis and writes about politics, government at MichaelLeppert.com.



BALL STATE'S 'PAPA JOHN' SUPPORT DRAWS CRITICISM

Meanwhile, Purdue removing Schnatter's name, offers to return donation

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

tudents, staff, and alumni of Ball State
University are reeling from the Board
of Trustees' steady backing of Papa
John's Pizza founder, "Papa John"
Schnatter.

Aug. 3, the board announced they would "continue our support of the John H. Schnatter Institute for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise."

"John Schnatter sincerely values his relationship with his alma mater, Ball State. He looks forward to continuing the tremendous work being done by the Institute," read a statement sent to NUVO by the John H. Schnatter Family Foundation.

Schnatter and the Charles Koch Foundation's \$3.25 million in funding for the John H. Schnatter Institute for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise, housed in the Whitinger Business Building, was first announced March 2, 2016.

Schnatter, a Jeffersonville native and 1983 Ball State graduate, resigned from his positions as Papa John's Pizza board chairman and University of Louisville Board of Trustees member July 11 after Forbes' Noah Kirsch reported he had used a racial slur during a conference call in May.

Unlike Ball State, Papa John's Pizza, the University of Utah and U of L have sought to publicly distance themselves from Schnatter since the scandal broke. Aug. 1, the University of Utah announced the Papa John's Pizza franchise in the student food court was replaced July 20. U of L



announced the name of their football stadium would change from Papa John's Cardinal Stadium to just Cardinal Stadium. Papa John's Pizza quickly moved to remove Schnatter's image from their future advertising and marketing materials.

"Clearly this situation continues to focus our attention and there are many important conversations that need to be had," wrote Rick Hall, Ball State's board chair, in a statement to NUVO. "We believe dialogue is the most productive path to mutual understanding on important issues like this one."

That discussion is far from over back on campus. Aug. 6, Geoffrey S. Mearns, Ball State president, issued his own separate statement, the Ball State English Department's blog now has an entire section dedicated to open letters titled "Let's Talk

About John." (You can read open letters addressed to Mearns and Hall written by Ball State's black faculty members on our website), and a Change.org petition started by the "Concerned Alumni of Ball State University" calling for Schnatter's name to be removed now has around 2,700 signatures.

"As to the petition, the University understands that petitions are one of many ways people express their thoughts and ... it is important that we listen to everyone who cares about Ball State University," Hall told NUVO. "Ball State has proven to be successful by coming together as a community. We will come together again on this issue through respectful, collaborative conversations. We believe it is OK to disagree, but we must keep talking. We also know that understanding these issues

requires us to understand each other. In any event, Ball State will do what is best for our campus."

One of the alumni behind the petition, Chris J. Taylor, is a 2016 graduate of Ball State's College of Communication, Information, and Media.

"You represent us," Taylor said, of the board. "If the university community is saying that's not the moral high ground, then they should be listening to that."

KeAyra Williams is president of Ball State's Black Student Association. Williams said demonstrations and leadership meetings were being planned. (Though, she said she was speaking for herself.)

"I think Ball State thinks this is going to die down and go away, but it's not," she said. "We're not going to let up until we get the decision that we deserve as students."

Later the same day of Ball State's announcement, the Purdue Board of Trustees said that the university's economics center, the John H. Schnatter Center for Economic Research at Purdue, should revert to the Purdue University Research Center in Economics.

Purdue also offered to return \$8 million in funds associated with the naming.

"I was just so proud that there were schools who said, 'No money is worth dignity of our students of color and our students of color feeling accepted and welcome and included in what we believe,'" Stephanie Woolley, a 2014 Ball State graduate.

When asked last week if their decision was based what Ball State did, the Purdue board told NUVO they had no further comment on the matter. **N**

SCOTUS CAMPAIGNS INCREASES IN INDIANA

Pro-Kavanaugh Groups Target Sen. Joe Donnelly's Swing Vote

BY ERICA IRISH // EDITORS@NUVO.NET

multi-million-dollar surge across states where Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation hangs in the balance is intensifying in Indiana, with Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly the target of several groups committed to securing Kavanaugh's place on the bench.

Among those ranks are pro-life activists, partisan lobbyists, and judicial networks that have been on the search for a conservative, constitutionalist justice for years. And now, it seems, they've found the man for the job.

But Donnelly has yet to be pinned down on where he stands on the nominee, and it appears he is prepared to take time to review Kavanaugh, who he plans to meet Aug. 15.

"Senator Donnelly has consistently said he would carefully review Judge Kavanaugh's record, meet with him, and follow his Senate confirmation hearing," Sarah Rothschild, Donnelly's communications director, said in a statement. "The Senator is continuing to thoroughly examine Judge Kavanaugh's record and looks forward to sitting down with him next week."

Kavanaugh advocates crowded outside the senator's downtown office last week with one demand—that the congressman, who has served in office since 2013, listen to his constituents and vote yes at the judge's looming confirmation hearing.

Several pro-life activists, including Sue Liebel, Indiana's chair of national anti-abortion group Susan B. Anthony List, spoke at the event as part of a larger bid to pressure Democratic senators in majority-red states to confirm the 53-year-old judge.



Liebel called Kavanaugh a strict constitutionalist, and said that his prior decisions indicate he will interpret the constitution as written rather than encourage, in her view, activism in the judiciary.

"People are tired of activism in the courts system," she said.

And this is especially true for Hoosiers, Liebel argues. She claims that Donnelly, who in 2015 voted in favor of a measure to allocate additional tax dollars to Planned Parenthood initiatives, has fallen out of touch with his "decidedly pro-life" state.

A poll commissioned by her organization and conducted by the Tarrance Group, a Republican data collection firm, argues that 65 percent of Indiana's citizenry would prefer state-level rules for abortion practices, not a universal ruling by the Supreme Court. A reported 56 percent said they

would want Donnelly to approve Kavanaugh's nomination.

Officials for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana and Kentucky, the political arm of the healthcare-focused Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, argue otherwise.

"Americans do not want to see this happen. More than 70 percent of Americans support access to abortion, including a majority of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans," said Christie Gillespie, CEO of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana and Kentucky, citing a separate report by PerryUndem, an independent organization that provides research services.

The country is on a cliff overlooking fundamental changes, Gillespie argues—"and appointing Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court would tip it over the edge."

Since Justice Anthony Kennedy's sudden retirement June 23, groups have committed millions of dollars for and against Kavanaugh's appointment.

In particular, leaders behind the Susan B. Anthony List said they will spend an estimated \$2 to \$3 million on their #ConfirmKavanaugh mission, which includes door-to-door "voter education," public demonstrations, and a mix of digital and televised advertisements in battleground states. They report to have visited 258,000 Indiana homes since last October, before the Supreme Court vacancy.

"That's why we're fighting like hell to protect access to abortion, contraception, and reproductive health care for all Hoosiers and Americans," said Gillespie.

But not all of the groups are focused on abortion rights.

On the other side of the political divide, Demand Justice, a coalition similar to the Judicial Crisis Network founded in 2018, is wagering more than \$5 million on advertising, according to the *New York Times*. The organization confirmed that it should raise an estimated \$10 million in its first year, all of which would fund efforts to appoint Democratic-leaning justices.

"Tell Senate Democrats: Oppose Brett Kavanaugh" is the slogan Demand Justice is directing at those in positions like Donnelly's. Their sticking point for opposition, however, falls on Kavanaugh's claim that presidents can terminate independent investigations at will. That could signify a threat to the ongoing investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into alleged collusion between President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and Russian intelligence. ▶

NUVO.NET/**NEWS**

2018 VOTER GUIDE INPUT

What would you ask the candidates?

BY ROB BURGESS // RBURGESS@NUVO.NET

here are only 83 days left until Election Day, Nov. 6. And, the last day to register to vote, Oct. 9, is even sooner than that. Time is growing short, and I need your help.

I am putting together a voter's guide covering all the local and state candidates on the ballot in and around Marion County. (Except for township level and school board seats.) I am including the list of candidates I will be sending questions to below so you can tailor your queries accordingly.

So, here's my big plan: I am sending out my list of five questions each to the candidates Aug. 29. That means you have two weeks to send the questions you want answered to me by email (preferably) at rburgess@nuvo.net or by mail at 3951 N. Meridian St., Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46208. The sooner the better. The deadline for the candidates to return their answers — 100 words or fewer for each question, please — to me is Sept. 26. I will start publishing the answers we receive back in a four-week series every Wednesday starting Oct. 3. And there will be a special section in our Halloween edition before votes are cast.

Thank you in advance for your help. And, one last thing: Please make sure you're registered to vote and then actually vote. This is all pointless otherwise. ▶

CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

4th District: Jim Baird (R), Tobi Beck (D)
5th District: Susan Brooks (R)*, Dee Thornton (D)
6th District: Jeannine Lee Lake (D), Tom Ferkinhoff (L),
Heather Meloy (I)#, Greg Pence (R), John Miller (I)#
7th District: André Carson (D)*,

Wayne "Gunny" Harmon (R)

9th District: Trey Hollingsworth (R)*, Liz Watson (D)

U.S. SENATE

Mike Braun (R), Lucy Brenton (L), Joe Donnelly (D)*

STATE

Indiana Auditor of State
Tera Klutz (R)*, John Schnick (L),
Joselyn Whitticker (D)

INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Jim Harper (D), Jeremy Heath (P)#, Connie Lawson (R)*, Mark W. Rutherford (L), George W. Wolfe (G)#

INDIANA TREASURER OF STATE

John C. Aguilera (D), Kelly Mitchell (R)*

INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

86th District: Edward DeLaney (D)*
87th District: Paula Finch (R), Carey Hamilton (D)*
88th District: Brian Bosma (R)*, Poonam Gill (D)
89th District: John Barnes (D), Cindy Kirchhofer (R)*
90th District: Tim Jeffers (D), Mike Speedy (R)*
91st District: Robert Behning (R)*,

Kevin Leineweber (D)

93rd District: David Frizzell (R)*, Greg Rathnow (D)

92nd District: Karlee Macer (D)*

94th District: Cherrish Pryor (D)*

95th District: John Bartlett (D)*

96th District: Gregory W. Porter (D)*

97th District: Justin Moed (D)*

98th District: Robin Shackleford (D)*

99th District: Vanessa Summers (D)*

INDIANA STATE SENATE

29th District: Mike Delph (R)*, J.D. Ford (D) 31st District: Derek Camp (D), James Merritt Jr. (R)*

For a complete list of races and candidates, see this story at **nuvo.net**

KEY:* =

(D) = Democratic Party

._

Incumbent # = Write-In (G) = Green Party

(I) = Independent

(R) = Republican Party

(L) = Libertarian Party (P) = Pirate Party



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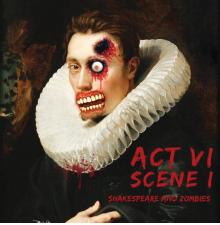
RED LINE CONSTRUCTION: live updates @ www.lndyGoRed.com

PURPLE LINE IS NEXT: learn more @ www.lndyGoPurple.com













AN INDYFRINGE OVERVIEW

Highlights and Trends of the Annual Theater Fest

BY **DAN GROSSMAN** // DGROSSMAN@NUVO.NET

ooking through this year's IndyFringe guide, it's possible to make a few observations about the makeup of the live theater fest this year. The first thing you might notice is that there's quite a few adaptations and/or riffs on Shakespeare in the 62 performances on offer in Fringe.

IndyFringe executive director Pauline Moffat agrees with this assessment—as the festival is about to enter its 14th year—but only to a point.

"There are many different versions of Shakespeare," she says. "We have our classic, which is Tim Mooney's *Breakneck Julius Caesar*."

You might have seen Tim Mooney perform his *Breakneck Hamlet* in the 2015 IndyFringe. But in case you haven't, it's a one man solo performance where at the speed of sound, he seamlessly summarizes important plot points ("Act II is mostly about acting and spying!" he says). He also performs selected scenes—including the infamous "To be or not to be" soliloquy—with gusto. And then there's his incisive and ironic commentary. At one point he declares Hamlet "a swift man of action."

"And then there is an amazing little play," Moffat continues, "called "Foot Worm the Musical." This particular Shakespeare-themed production, by Greenwood-based Tristan Ross, is the story about a tough newspaper editor who, after injuring her foot in a river, takes some time off to reconnect with the old Elizabethan bard. *Foot Worm* involves not only Shakespeare, but musical theater and puppetry.

"Tristan is a Shakespearean actor," says Moffat. "And he loves Shakespeare. For ten years he's been doing quirky things with Shakespeare. So I'm interested to see that take."

And then, there is probably the most outré of the Shakespeare plays: *Shakespeare and Zombies*. This particular IndyFringe offering, performed by Indianapolis-based Lord Chamberlain's Men, probably doesn't need much in the way of description. But, suffice to say, it's not the type of thing that you're going to see in the Shakespeare festivals.

Finally there's *The Globe* by Earlham College Fringe Company about a struggling Shakespeare company who seems to have a rather Shakespearean idea of how to keep her job.

But dance is also prominent at Fringe. Five local dance companies showcase their work this year, performing out of WHAT // IndyFringe 14th Annual
Live Theater Festival
WHEN // Aug. 16 - 26
WHERE // Mass Ave Arts District
TICKETS // IndyFringe.org
You can attend the free Performer Preview
Night to check out previews of all 62
shows on Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. at Indiana Fire

The District Theatre (formerly Theatre on the Square), with the Indianapolis-based company Dance Kaleidoscope playing an outsized role in making dance performance possible—or at least easier for dancers—at the festival.

Fighters Museum, 748 Mass Ave.

Dance Kaleidoscope will be combining dance and comedy with their *Make 'Em Laugh Workshop*.

"Dance Kaleidoscope has been extremely generous and for years has laid the dance floor at The District Theater," says Moffat. "It's a professional dance floor which really encourages companies to perform because they know that is a dance stage. And so much so that this year that this year we have the wonderful Gregory Hancock [Dance Theatre] in the festival for the first time. And he's bringing this beautiful dance

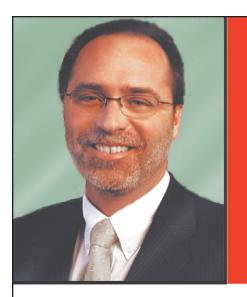
Intoxicating India [...] it's the first time that we've seen Gregory downtown in years."

Moffat seems proud of the way Indy-Fringe has cultivated a particular group who have taken Andrew Black's playwriting class at the Indiana Writers Center. Some from this group have had their plays produced at the annual, IndyFringe-organized DivaFest.

"We give the playwrights nine years of development through DivaFest," says Moffat. "So now they're at that point where they're entering the festival because they're confident that their work is good. And they're confident enough that they understand the process of getting a play onstage. And they're confident enough to engage a director perhaps to take the play to the next level. So I think that it's years of building those foundations that we're [now] seeing that trend come through."

Moffat also says that 2018 is also the year of the musical at IndyFringe.

"We've got that crazy story, *Paper Swords* the musical; we've got *Broadway's Leading Ladies*; we've got *Jollyship the Whiz Bang* the musical, *ARCADEFIRE!: The Redemption of Billy Mitchell* the musical, *Foot Worm* the musical. Everyone's into the musical this year."



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MOSCOW MUSINGS

A Recent Trip to Russia Inspires IndyFringe Veteran

BY REBECCA BERFANGER // ARTS@NUVO.NET

es Kurkendaal, a Los Angeles-based storyteller and comedian who has written and performed 10 different shows at Fringe fests around the world since 2000, will be back at Indy-Fringe Fest this year with Walking While Black in Moscow.

The story behind the work comes from time Kurkendaal spent in Russia for two weeks in 2017. While his partner, an English-immersion teacher, worked during the day, Kurkendaal was free to wander on his own.

Kurkendaal first performed the show in March 2018 at Rogue Festival in Fresno, Calif., where he won The Sold Out Award. He has also performed the show and won WHAT // Walking While Black in Moscow

WHEN // Aug. 17 - 26

WHERE // ComedySportz

TICKETS // IndyFringe.org

other awards at fringe festivals in Portland, Maine, Regina, Saskatchewan, and at Minnesota Fringe.

I spoke to Kurkendaal by phone ahead of his IndyFringe performance about the play.

NUVO: When you went to Moscow, did you go in thinking you'd write a show about it?

KURKENDAAL: No. Full disclosure: my boyfriend is British, and so on our way to Russia, we actually stopped in England for

NUVO.NET/STAGE

five days to meet his family for the first time. His mom and his dad lived way out in the English countryside. I was going to write a show about meeting his family. But it turned out his family was so normal and so regular and so nice, that I got absolutely no material from them whatsoever. But when I went to Russia afterwards, just the reactions I got from people were so crazy, and I kept a journal. The show basically wrote itself.

NUVO: What was the political climate? **KURKENDAAL:** Here's the funny thing. Not one person mentioned politics to me.

Because in Russia, they don't talk politics because of the fact that you never know who's going to be listening to you. So I did not discuss politics once when I was there. [But] when it came to LGBT issues, I did have discussions with people about that. I address that in the show because I met people in the gay community.

NUVO: Russia isn't known as an LGBT-friendly place.

KURKENDAAL: Not at all.

NUVO: Did you do any prep work before going there?

KURKENDAAL: I actually did because I had gotten wind from more than one person that Russians didn't like Black people and that Russians were actually kinda racist. There's a woman who had gone to Russia, "Black Girl in Russia," so I watched her on YouTube. [That] put me at ease a little bit. Her thing was, and I'm paraphrasing, 'a) I'm a Black woman and b) I was with a white man,' so I don't know if that had any effect on the experience."

NUVO: I don't want you to give too much away, but is there one teaser you can spare?

KURKENDAAL: When I was in St. Petersburg, there was the Chocolate Museum [and] there was a big chocolate Santa statue. Oh, and by the way my boyfriend is white and British, but he looks Russian and

speaks Russian, so people [would] assume he's Russian. This random woman comes up, and in Russian asks my boyfriend, "Can I take a picture with your friend because he's chocolate?" So then I let her take a picture of me and she just walked away.

NUVO: Was that surprising?

KURKENDAAL: That was towards the end of the trip, so at that point I was used to it, believe it or not. But the thing is, it wasn't coming from a malicious place at all. Someone would walk up and ask to take a picture with me, and then they'd hug

me and then walk away. I never got the feeling they were being mean or evil or anything like that. I think this was something that they had never seen before. They did know rappers, and a couple people thought I was one. That being said, this is the first time a lot of them had seen a Black person other than on TV. So I never felt that anything

was out of malice.

-LES KURKENDAAL

"Just the reactions

I got from people

I kept a journal.

wrote itself."

were so crazy, and

The show basically

NUVO: Would you recommend going to Moscow to others?

KURKENDAAL: If you're an art lover, some of the art I saw was just incredible. I went to the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, which had amazing art. In St. Petersburg I went to the State Hermitage Museum. I didn't realize until I got back that a lot of people have that on their bucket lists. If you're a history or an art buff, I would highly recommend going. I would totally go back.

NUVO: Did anything else catch your attention?

KURKENDAAL: People were just drop dead gorgeous there. I saw even better looking people than I've seen in L.A. These men and women who seriously looked like supermodels and they were, like, selling ice cream. ... The vibe itself totally reminded me of the '80s. Everything was big, and the hair was big, the fashion was big, it was all just over the top. And I loved every minute of it. ▶



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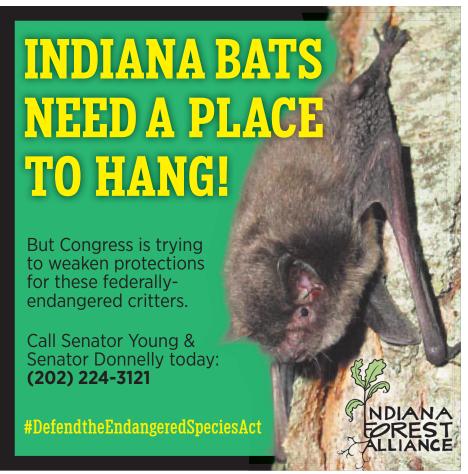
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HOT, MESSY, STICKY: INDY'S LOVE OF CHICKEN WINGS

Paying tribute to everyone's favorite bar food

BY LAURA MCPHEE // LMCPHEE@NUVO.NET

f you're ever curious enough to google "when did chicken wings become a thing?" you will be flooded with responses that all contain the same story.

According to the collective wisdom of the internet, the first plate of wings was served in 1964 at a family-owned establishment in Buffalo, New York called the Anchor Bar. The wings were the brainchild of co-owner Teressa Bellissimo, who covered them in her

own special cocktail sauce and served them with a side of bleu cheese and celery to her son and his friends one night, because that's what she had available.

Turns out, there had been a delivery mistake. Instead of the chicken backs and necks she'd ordered for her spaghetti sauce, she got wings. Making the best out of the mixup, she coated them in sauce and served them up as hors d'oeuvres.

According to the National Chicken Council, the guys at the bar liked them so much that Teressa put them on the menu the next day. Seemingly overnight, "Buffalo Wings" were an instant hit. Restaurants and bars all over the city started doing the same and within a few years the local delicacy was growing in popularity around the country.

There was even an official proclamation from the City of Buffalo declaring July 29,

1977, Chicken Wing Day, though by then Mr. Bellissimo seems to be taking all of the credit: "whereas, the success of Mr. Bellissimo's tasty experiment in 1964 has grown to the point where thousands of pounds of chicken wings are consumed by Buffalonians in restaurants and taverns throughout our city each week..."

The concept of a spicy chicken wing hit the big time in 1990, when McDonald's be-

gan selling them. KFC rolled out Hot Wings a year later, and Domino's Pizza in 1994. Not long after, the NFL's Super Bowl turned into a mega-event and wings were back in a very big way.

It helps that chicken wings are ridiculously cheap to buy and serve. Bars figured out pretty quickly that "all you can eat" wings—especially the very spicy ones—would lead to increased beer purchases. Turn on an hours-long football game, and the bar tab more than makes up for whatever those wings cost you.

Unfortunately, the story of the Bellissimo family bar being the origin of the chicken wing craze can be pretty easily debunked for the more vigorous of researchers.

For one thing, there's was another resident of Buffalo who was cooking up spicy wings and selling them like hotcakes before Mrs. Bellissimo served them to her customers. From the moment she started getting press, this gentleman was out there trying to set the record straight.

John Young's Wings-n-Things was selling wings first, said John Young from day one. And, at the time, he had documentation to prove it. While preparation methods of the two wing dishes was different, the Anchor Bar's wings were chopped, fried and dipped in bleu cheese dressing, while Young's wings were whole, breaded then dipped in his mambo sauce, the concept was pretty much the same.

Maybe it's because Young was Black and Bellissimo was White that her version of events seems to be the one most remembered now by google searches and historians alike. It's a theory Calvin Trillin found plausible when he tried to find out the origin of the chicken wing for a 1980 *New Yorker* piece.

"Was the Buffalo chicken wing invented when Teressa Bellissimo thought of splitting it in half and deep-frying it and serving it with celery and bleu-cheese dressing?" writes Trillin. "Or was it invented when John Young started using mambo sauce and thought of elevating wings into a specialty? How about the Black people who have always eaten chicken wings?"

Yeah. How 'bout the fact that people,



especially in the South, especially people of color in the South, have been eating chicken wings since way before 1964?

AN INDY WINGS HISTORY

Even in Indianapolis, you could find chicken wings on the menu of bars and restaurants at least 50 years prior to the Anchor Bar in Buffalo.

In 1910, Smith's Cafe at 39 N. Illinois St. was advertising a lunch special of Creole Chicken Wings, while a few blocks away on Meridian Street the Budweiser Cafe was competing with Southern Wings and Giblets in Gravy.

Heck, by 1935 Emily Post was answering desperate pleas from hostesses wondering how best to serve messy, sticky chicken wings and whether they should be eaten with a fork or with your hands (answer: a fork, unless you are at home then fingers are okay).

In 1960, *The Indianapolis Star* ran a recipe for "Cocktail Wings" that sounds suspiciously like whatever it was Teressa Bellissimo served up a few years later. Here, the recipe calls for wings batter-dipped, rolled in crumbs and then deep-fried; served with a "tangy dipping sauce" made up of chili sauce, catsup, horseradish, tabasco, worcestershire sauce and lemon juice.

The best example of Indy's chicken wing history, however, comes in 1969. On the night the old Claypool Hotel downtown was being demolished, a "Destruction Ball" was held in the lobby. Guest were entertained by a band and offered champagne, beer and chicken wings for refreshments. At midnight, they were hustled across the street, large exterior flood lights were turned on, and they cheered as a demolition crew brought down the building.

It's hard to say if any tailgate party in the vicinity can rival that night, but Indianapolis hasn't lost its passion for wings in the decades since. If anything, they are ubiquitous at this point.

Without a way to determine the "first" to serve the coveted chicken wing, perhaps it's best if we simply focus on who is serving the best plate of them today.

THE BEST WINGS IN TOWN

For the past four years, Ale Emporium at 8617 Allisonville Road has taken top honors in the NUVO Best of Indy Readers' Poll for Best Chicken Wings in Indianapolis. Don't believe me? Visit their website or the restaurant and you'll the BOI logo proudly and prominently displayed.

Asked why the wings at Ale Emporium deserve such a long winning streak, fans answer nearly unanimously, the Herman

sauce—of which there are four different types: Herman-Style, a "secret" blend of peppers and spices mixed with "secret" sauce, (gee, that's helpful); Hermanki, the secret stuff mentioned above with teriyaki sauce; Hermaican, secret stuff plus jerk seasoning; and Hermazian, secret stuff plus sweet and sour sauce.

We visited last week and went with the boneless, because we had the choice, and we picked the original Herman sauce. No regrets. Even without bones, the wings are huge. The dry rub of spices seeps into every bite and whatever that secret sauce is sets taste buds into overdrive.

Ale Emporium sells wings by the pound, so if you pick the boneless you can choose between a \$7 snack of half pound \$14 small order at 1 pound or a \$25 large order at 2 pounds. Celery, carrots and bleu cheese available as sides.

If you go the traditional bone-in route, you'll pay just a little more but these are JUMBO wings, so you'll feel like you're getting your money's worth. \$8 snack (1 pound), \$15 small (2 pounds), and \$26 large (4 pounds).

Our next stop is **Keystone Sports Review**, also a fan favorite, finishing in the top three of our Best of Indy best wings category nearly every year. It's definitely the answer I get most often from my friends when asked who has the best wings in town.

Located at **5202 N. Keystone Ave.**, KSR has been around for as long as NUVO, and that's 1990 for you new kids. It's a neighborhood bar no matter where you happen to live with good food, good music, and good people. Each year, they sell about a half ton of chicken wings during the Super Bowl. What else could you possibly want in a sports bar?

Wings are sold by the number at KSR, and your choices are a half order of five at \$5, a full order of 10 for \$9, or a bucket of 20 for \$16.50. We recommend the bucket.

The sauce choices are more plentiful than at Ale Emporium, and much less secretive. They are no less delicious, however. You get a choice of mild or hot in most cases and the available flavors are barbecue, honey, garlic, teriyaki, Cajun dry rub, Caribbean jerk,



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The Big Story Continued...



Asian chili, and Korean barbecue. Celery, carrots, and bleu cheese are also available.

We stuck with the traditional hot barbecue and the cajun dry rub on our most recent visit, though the honey has been a long favorite as well. We've tasted all the others at some point in the last three decades, and can't say we ever remember a bad batch, so you run no risk of trying something new. Also, there's something special about the bleu cheese dip at KSR that we can't put our finger on, but it's better than most.

Rounding out our top three places in town to get wings is the perineal favorite **Chatham Tap** at 719 Mass Ave.

Chatham Tap is as close to a proper British pub as your likely to find in Indianapolis, and it's one our readers consistently choose for a number of Best of Indy awards, including best wings. While they were second place in last year's poll, their Prince Dean's Angel Wings are so unique, it's hard to see them as rivals with the others in the category.

We stopped in last week for lunch and they were as good as we remember. The ingredients of the sauce remain a mystery, but there's a hint of something earthy or smoky, that plays just right with the overall flavor. The skin is crisp, which is nice for a change, and the wings themselves fairly large. A plate of 12 (\$14.99) is more than enough for lunch, especially if your lunch companions keep taking them off your plate to try one. There's also a half order available for \$7.49.

Luckily, we also ordered a plate of the

teriyaki wings at Chatham, and they are just as good, if not better, than the angelic ones. A lot of places get the teriyaki sauce all wrong with the balance of soy, but not Chatham. These were perfect and gone within minutes.

As the top three finishers in our 2017 Best of Indy poll, Ale Emporium, Keystone Sports Review, and Chatham Tap come highly recommended by readers and NUVO staff. We've tasted them all, and concur. Now let's see if Ale Emporium can make if a five-year streak when voting opens for the 2018 poll.



Want more choices for great wings? Check out **indywingsweek.com** for restaurants and special offers Aug. 20 - 26. **N**



NUVO.NET/BEERBUZZ

SOFT OPEN FOR MAYFAIR TAP ROOM

Historic 10th Street Structure has Storied Past

BY RITA KOHN // RKOHN@NUVO.NET

he Mayfair Taproom is set to open this month, and, when it does, it will mark the return of an Eastside landmark and 120+ year old building that has set vacant for two decades.

The structure at 2032 E. 10th Street began as Phillip Miller Drugs in 1894. By the mid-1930s it was a restaurant, and by the 1950s, it was one of the coolest music venues in town.

For nearly 30 years, the Mayfair Tavern hosted well-known Indianapolis-based jazz players nightly. Newspaper stories from the day note particulars like Wes Montgomery switching out his acoustic guitar to play electric bass with the Buddy Parker combo (Dec. 16, 1956). According to the papers, the group had a long run and were asked back time and again. The succeeding roster of acts over three decades reads like a who's who of the best of Indy's Golden Age of Jazz.

When the Mayfair closed in the 1980s, it was a shadow of its former self. But the neighborhood has never forgotten those days or the stories of jazz legends. They also haven't forgotten the somewhat notorious Mustang Sally's bar that took up residence until it closed in 1995.

The Mayfair building called out to Broad Ripple Brew Pub owners Nancy and John Hill when they were scouting for a place to open with their son, Alec Hill, and his partner Hilary Powers. They've been renovating and making discoveries at the Mayfair since taking ownership in the Fall of 2016.

"We saved as much as we possibly could while bringing the building up to modern safety standards," says Powers. "We saved some of the buried brick, which we found while digging out the basement, and used it to make a small decorative entrance to our back patio.

"We also found numerous old bottles in the basement, which will be on display behind the bar, along with vestiges of its drugstore days. Visitors will see an old map of Indianapolis as well as a large novelty chocolate bunny which we found in the upstairs of the building."

There's an exposed wall to showcase 19th Century building techniques. It now serves as a bookcase for a borrow-one-bring-one book sharing that is an extension from the Broad Ripple Brewpub's family-neighborly feel.

During my visit, Alec poured a test-taste from the first hooked-up tap line. BRBP's brewer Jonathon Mullens had sent over a fine rye beer, crisp and cooling for the very hot June day. Of course BRBP beer will be featured on tap, alongside the BRBP dedication to OPB-Other People's Beer.

Food is Alec's forte. "Expect a small menu of English and American pub fare, made with quality ingredients and a little bit of flair," he promises. "We're focusing on regional craft beer but we will also have some imports in bottles. We will also have a small list of classic cocktails."

"We're so excited to open our doors to our neighbors so we can get some feedback? We've said from the beginning that all we're doing is building the place; our customers will make it."

IF YOU GO

Check Mayfair Taproom's Facebook for latest info on

exact opening dates

ADDRESS: 2032 E. 10th St. 46201

PHONE: (317) 419-2393

EMAIL: info@mayfairtaproom.com

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SIR DEJA DOOG SHINES AGAIN

Longtime Indiana musician discusses latest album

BY **SETH JOHNSON** // SJOHNSON@NUVO.NET

ric Alexander and I sit on the couch in my apartment, listening to his latest album *Eclipse*. Known artistically as Sir Deja Doog, Alexander gives me some context on each song from the album, beginning with the title track.

"This song is about just the inevitability of death and the question of whether or not to bring a child into the world, if you even can or want to," he says. "The question is complicated by my disability and my inability to completely even take care of myself. I have a lot to offer a kid, but it's more difficult for me."

Like this track, *Eclipse* as an album is much more serious in nature than previous Sir Deja Doog releases. Containing themes of Greek mythology, the album also marks a shift in instrumentation, as Alexander relays his always-imaginative voice through synthesizers. Having already received a limited 100-run cassette release via Indy's Warm Ratio label (Hoops, Sleeping Bag, Vaadat Charigim), *Eclipse* will be released online for purchase and streaming on Sept. 7.

A lot has happened in the life of Alexander since his 2014 masterpiece *Love Coffin*. Most notably, his physical condition has been affected by a brain tumor, which led to his aforementioned disability. "Most of the problems that interfere with my daily life come from a tumor in the left parietal lobe of my brain as well as the trauma of the biopsy," Alexander says. "I spent a year mostly in bed as I learned to walk, talk, sing, and play guitar again." Other medical issues along the way have also altered what he can and can't do musically.

"I've also had a few surgeries in my lower abdomen which makes it painful for me to sing," he says. "I've had to step back from singing live for that reason. The brain damage exaggerates the pain of my mild carpal tunnel and arthritis which makes playing guitar hard to bear."

With all of these changes, Alexander has shifted his focus away from the guitar, which can be heard on *Eclipse*. "Consequently, I've taken up the synthesizer as my primary instrument," he says. "My physical experience is quite wretched. I don't think I could bear it if I couldn't retreat into my imagination. I think that's one of the rea-

Order your cassette copy of *Eclipse* via WarmRatio.com, or wait until Sept. 7 for the album's digital release.

sons I make so much music." In particular, Alexander recently dove headfirst into the world of modular synthesizers.

"I got the Make Noise 0-Coast desktop modular synthesizer, and it blew my mind," Alexander says. "It opened up a whole new gateway into a world of music that I was marginally aware of, and I didn't realize how it was made or why it works the way that it does. I just began to devour everything modular that I could find."

With his new gear setup, Alexander intended for *Eclipse* to feel like an art house film from the early '70s. In particular, he cites iconic sound designer Suzanne Ciani as an influence. "I'm inspired by Suzanne Ciani (who's actually from Indiana) and her work in early synthesizer sound design for movies and stuff like that," Alexander says. "A lot of the record is coming from that place of making nature sounds or other sounds that aren't necessarily supposed to sound like instruments, using the old modular '70s techniques." Much like the sounds on *Eclipse*, Alexander was very intentional with the mood of his lyrics on the album as well.

"I felt like I wanted to give it this more serious tone," he says. "I didn't want anything too goofy to mess it up because obviously Sir Deja Doog can get pretty silly. I like that about the character, but on this particular record, I wanted to focus more on my inner life and spiritual concerns."

Perhaps no song on *Eclipse* touches upon all of Alexander's intentions more than "Cleito's Ode to Poseidon," featuring chilling guest vocals from Carly Sobolewski. "Doog is weird in the coolest way," Sobolewski says. "I'm honored to be the voice for his writing and hope to get to work with him again in the future." Overall, she sees *Eclipse* as a compelling new chapter in the annals of Sir Deja Doog.

"The album has a lot of variety and is very different than his other material," Sobolewski says. "It makes me want to revisit the coast every time I hear it, and the imagery is beautiful." ▶



or some time now, Amanda Gardier has drawn positive notice for her bright melodic alto sax work with guitarist Charlie Ballantine. She performs frequently around Indianapolis as a member of Ballantine's quartet and has played on all four of the guitarist's studio recordings.

In the midst of all that activity, Gardier has also carved out time to write and record *Empathy*, her first outing as a leader. *Empathy* is a superb debut and will no doubt raise Gardier's profile as a uniquely talented jazz composer and soloist.

You'll have a few opportunities to hear for yourself in the coming weeks. Gardier has a pair of release parties planned for the record, including an **August 25** date at the **Jazz Kitchen** and a **September 8** performance at **Chatterbox**. You can also catch Gardier opening for Anat Cohen on **September 16** at **The Cabaret** as part of Indy Jazz Fest.

"I'm proud when I tell people that all the musicians on this record are Indianapolis musicians."

-AMANDA GARDIER

Jazz music entered Gardier's life at an early age while growing up in St. Charles, Ill.

"I started saxophone in fifth grade," she says. "We got to choose our band instruments, and I was drawn to the saxophone. I started jazz band in sixth grade and had private lessons right away."

Jazz immediately resonated with Gardier, and from that point on, the music would play a pivotal role in her life decisions.

"Coming out of high school, I was trying to decide what I wanted to do with my life, and I almost went into the medical field," Gardier recalls. "But I went to this camp in Wisconsin called Birch Creek—I actually teach there now. It's a great two-week long camp where the kids and the faculty perform four to five nights a week. It was the first time in my life where I was totally focused on music. I was performing every night, and I realized I really liked the lifestyle."

From here, Gardier decided to pursue music at Indiana University, where she met Charlie Ballantine. The two musicians hit it off and began performing together, which eventually led the saxophonist to Indianapolis. "Charlie finished up at IU a little before me, and he'd already started playing in Indy," Gardier says. The fruits of their collaboration now extend beyond the bandstand as Gardier and Ballantine are currently engaged to be married. Gardier credits their contrasting backgrounds as a source of influence on her musical

development. "Charlie grew up listening to the Beach Boys, and Jimi Hendrix, while I grew up listening to more jazz or metal," Gardier says. "We have totally different perspectives, and he's brought out a different side of my playing."

Ballantine's guitar is featured throughout *Empathy* as part of Gardier's core band, which also includes Clay Wulbrecht on piano, Jesse Wittman on bass, and Chris Parker on drums. *Empathy* also features a pair of notable guest spots from vocalist Mina Keohane and the standard-bearer of Indianapolis jazz Rob Dixon.

"When I realized I wanted a tenor sax on this record I had to ask Rob," Gardier says. "I was so glad he was able to perform with us. I just love his playing. He's got a great sound on alto and tenor, and he makes every group he plays with better." Dixon is featured on five of the album's tracks, including a memorable take on Björk's "Joga." "On Björk's original the chorus is looped at the end, and I thought it would be so fun if both Rob and I soloed at the same time." Gardier reflects.

Aside from the aforementioned Björk cover, Gardier composed the remainder of the disc's nine tracks. Clocking in at around an hour in length, *Empathy* is packed with standout moments. Highlights include the haunting "Smoke," which features ethereal wordless vocals from Keohane, and the lovely duet playing between Gardier and Dixon on "Revolving Door."

Throughout *Empathy*, Gardier is generous in sharing solo time with her fellow musicians, and she's equally generous in sharing praise. Gardier credits her Indianapolis jazz peers with providing the inspiration for this project.

"I'm influenced by the current scene of musicians here," Gardier says. "I am inspired by the musicians who've came out of Indy, like Wes Montgomery and Freddie Hubbard. They've inspired me in creating my own project, and I'm proud when I tell people that all the musicians on this record are Indianapolis musicians. There's great stuff coming from Indy, and I'm inspired to share that."





SOUNDCHECK

BY IAN McPHEE



FRIDAY // 8.17
Lil' Uzi Vert at Ruoff Home Mortgage Music Center

G-Eazy's Endless Summer Tour hits Ruoff on Friday and it is gon' be fuckin' liiiii-hiiiiit. Opening acts YBN Nahmir, Murda Beatz, P-Lo and Ty Dolla \$ign are kickin' it off early, but the real star of the show is emo-rap pioneer Lil' Uzi, who's been topping the charts for the last year with his genre-defying songwriting and style. And then I guess G-Eazy is playing, whoever that is.



SATURDAY // 8.18
The Pink Spiders at The Melody Inn

Holy shit, The Pink Spiders are playing The Clash Bash at The Melody Inn on Saturday! Unless you were living under a rock 'n roll-less rock, you remember them from waaaay back in 2006, when their songs "Little Razorblade" and "Modern Swinger" were stuck in your head every fucking day. They're back to their original line-up and touring in support of their recently released LP, *Mutations*.



SATURDAY // 8.18
Richard Lloyd at Square Cat Vinyl

It ain't every day a goddamn legend comes to town. But on Saturday ex-Television/Rocket From The Tomb guitarist and the midwife to the birth of punk rock, Richard Lloyd will be rippin' at Square Cat Vinyl. If ya don't know Television, then your parents raised you poorly and I'm sorry. Go to any used bookstore, go to the music section, and grab a book about the New York punk scene. Wait, do book stores still exist?



TUESDAY // 8.21
The Mighty Mighty Bosstones at The Vogue Theatre

Make your way up to The Vogue on Tuesday for the return of The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. After seven years of radio silence the band released their tenth album, While We're At It, back in June thus completing the musical trilogy that began with Pin Points and Gin Joints and The Magic of Youth and proving that it is possible for a ska band to keep making music for 35 years.



WEDNESDAY // 8.22
Microwave & Can't Swim w/ Drug Church at Hoosier Dome

Well, Drug Church is definitely my new favorite band name. And after consulting the internets and listening to some tunes, I have concluded that Drug Church, Microwave, and Can't Swim all play music that is as awesome as the sentences you could construct if you cut up this show flyer. Like... Hoosier Church Drug Can't Microwave Swim Dome. Huh. Sounds like a headline. Anyway, go to this show.

WEDNESDAY // 8.15

All Ages Jazz Jam Square Cat Vinyl 7 p.m. FREE, all-ages

Tim Brickley Troubadour

The Jazz Kitchen 6:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Freethinker The Melody Inn 7 n m \$5 21+

Grand Funk Railroad

Indiana State Fairgrounds 7:30 p.m. *FREE*, all-ages

Dizgo The Bluebird (Bloomington) 9 p.m. \$5, 21+

THURSDAY // 8.16

Brandon Wadley & Room For Zero Pioneer 8 p.m. FREE. 21+

Dr. Boldylocks, Robin Goodfellow, **Never Come Downs**

State Street Pub 8 p.m. \$5, 21+ Reason Define, Hail Your

Highness, Anna Faye + More Hoosier Dome 6:30 p.m. \$10. 21+

Bewitcher, Crypt Seeker. **Shroud Of Vulture**

Black Circle Brewing Co. 8 p.m. \$7, 21+

Hvdraulix

The Mousetrap 9 p.m. FREE, 21+

Grupo Bembe Latin Band

The Jazz Kitchen 6:30 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

FRIDAY // 8.17

Biscuit Miller & The Mix

The Slippery Noodle Inn 8:30 p.m. \$5, 21+

Joe Hess And The Wandering Cowboys

HI-FI 8 p.m. \$12, 21+

Lari Pati

Pioneer 8 p.m. \$10, 21+

Man Eating Giant

The Melody Inn 9 p.m. \$5, 21+

Palace, Summerbruise, Mosquito

State Street Pub 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

The Smashing Pumpkins Bankers Life Fieldhouse 7 p.m. \$21+, all-ages

SATURDAY // 8.18

Rod Stewart & Cyndi Lauper Ruoff Music Center

Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle & Dwight Yokam The Lawn at White River

6:30 p.m. \$24+, 21+ The Trip, 800lb Gorilla,

Max Allen Band HI-FI 8 p.m. \$10, 21+

7:30 p.m. \$21+, 21+

Red Barat

IMA 7:30 p.m. \$35, all-ages

The Meatball Band

The Vogue Theatre 7 p.m. \$20, 21+

Freekbass

The Mousetrap 9 p.m. \$8, 21+

Robby Krieger

Indiana State Fairgrounds 7:30 p.m. **FREE** all-ages

Hank Haggard and **Jason Hawthorne**

Duke's Indy 9:30 p.m. FREE, 21+

SUNDAY // 8.19

Acoustic Bluegrass Open Jam The Mousetrap

9 p.m. *FREE*, 21+

I Feel Okay, Dana Skully & The Tiger Sharks, Arcadia Grey, **Overnight Gallery**

Irving Theater 7 p.m. \$7. all-ages

Hye Tension, The Red Streak The Melody Inn 8 p.m. \$5, 21+

Kirk Franklin

Indiana State Fairgrounds 7:30 p.m. *FREE*, all-ages

Mason Jennings, Crescent Ulmer HI-FI 7 p.m. \$20. 21+

MONDAY // 8.20

Acoustic Open Mic

Irving Theater 7 p.m. FREE, all-ages

Johnny Ping's Open Stage

The Thompson House 8 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Open Mic Comedy & Music

The Melody Inn 8 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Songwriter's Open Mic

Square Cat Vinyl 7 p.m. FREE, all-ages

TUESDAY // 8.21

Cool City Jazz Band

The Jazz Kitchen

7 p.m. \$12, 21+

Chris Shaffer

The Slippery Noodle Inn 7:30 p.m. FREE, 21+

Lovelytheband w/ Rad Horror HI-FI 7 p.m. \$15, 21+

Open Mic Liberty Street 8:30 p.m. FREE, 21+

WEDNESDAY // 8.22

Andra Faye & Scott Ballantine

The Jazz Kitchen 6 p.m. **FREE**, 21+

Blues Jam w/ Jon Strahl

The Slippery Noodle Inn 8:30 p.m. FREE 21+

Chicago Farmer Album Release HI-FI 8 p.m. \$10, 21+

Sego w/ The Trees

Pioneer 8 p.m. \$7, 21+

The Family Jam

The Mousetrap 9 p.m. FREE, 21+

The Mentors, A.S.D., **Hate For State**

The Melody Inn 7 p.m. \$5, 21+







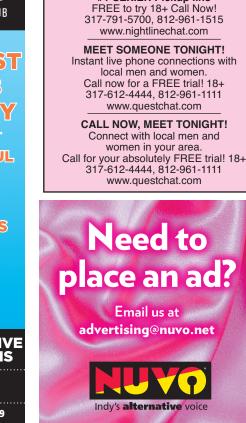












#1 SEXIER Pickup line

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): "The prettier the garden, the dirtier the hands of the gardener," writes aphorist B. E. Barnes. That'll be especially applicable to you in the coming weeks. You'll have extra potential to create and foster beauty, and any beauty you produce will generate practical benefits for you and those you care about. But for best results, you'll have to expend more effort than maybe you thought you should. It might feel more like work than play—even though it will ultimately enhance your ability to play.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Author and theologian Thomas Merton thought that the most debilitating human temptation is to settle for too little; to live a comfortable life rather than an interesting one. I wouldn't say that's always true about you, Taurus. But I do suspect that in the coming weeks, a tendency to settle for less could be the single most devitalizing temptation you'll be susceptible to. That's why I encourage you to resist the appeal to accept a smaller blessing or punier adventure than you deserve. Hold out for the best and brightest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I've learned quite a lot, over the years, by avoiding what I was supposed to be learning." So says the wise and well-educated novelist Margaret Atwood. Judging by your current astrological omens, I think this is an excellent clue for you to contemplate right now. What do you think? Have you been half-avoiding any teaching that you or someone else thinks you're "supposed" to be learning? If so, I suggest you avoid it even stronger. Avoid it with cheerful rebelliousness. Doing so may lead you to what you really need to learn about next.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sometimes you make it difficult for me to reach you. You act like you're listening but you're not really listening. You semi-consciously decide that you don't want to be influenced by anyone except yourself. When you lock me out like that, I become a bit dumb. My advice isn't as good or helpful. The magic between us languishes. Please don't do that to me now. And don't do it to anyone who cares about you. I realize that you may need to protect yourself from people who aren't sufficiently careful with you. But your true allies have important influences to offer, and I think you'll be wise to open yourself to them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Whoever does not visit Paris regularly will never really be elegant," wrote French author Honoré de Balzac. I think that's an exaggeration, but it does trigger a worthwhile meditation. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you're in a phase of your cycle when you have maximum power to raise your appreciation of elegance, understand how it could beautify your soul, and add more of it to your repertoire. So here are your homework meditations: What does elegance mean to you? Why might it be valuable to cultivate elegance, not just to enhance your self-presentation, but also to upgrade your relationship with your deep self? (P.S.: Fashion designer Christian Dior said, "Elegance must be the right combination of distinction, naturalness, care, and simplicity.")

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Many of us imagine medieval Europe to have been drab and dreary. But historian Jacques Le Goff tells us that the people of that age adored luminous hues: "big jewels inserted into book-bindings, glowing gold objects, brightly painted sculpture, paintings covering the walls of churches, and the colored magic of stained glass." Maybe you'll be inspired by this revelation, Virgo. I hope so. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you can activate sleeping wisdom and awaken dormant energy by treating your eyes to lots of vivid reds, greens, yellows, blues, browns, oranges, purples, golds, blacks, coppers, and pinks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An astrologer on Tumbir named Sebastian says this about your sign: "Libras can be boring people when they don't trust you enough to fully reveal themselves. But they can be just as exciting as any fire sign and just as weird as any Aquarius and just as talkative as a Gemini and just as empathetic as a Pisces. Really, Librans are some of the most eccentric people you'll ever meet, but you might not know it unless they trust you enough to take their masks off around you." Spurred by Sebastian's analysis, here's my advice to you: I hope you'll spend a lot of time with people you trust in the coming weeks, because for the sake of your mental and physical and spiritual health, you'll need to express your full eccentricity. (Sebastian's at http://venuspapi.tumbir.com.)

scorpio (oct. 23-Nov. 21): A blogger who calls herself Wistful Giselle has named the phenomena that make her "believe in magic." They include the following: "illuminated dust in the air; the moments when a seedling sprouts; the intelligence gazing back at me from a crow's eyes; being awaken by the early morning sun; the energy of storms; old buildings overgrown with plants; the ever-changing grey green blue moods of the sea; the shimmering moon on a cool, clear night." I invite you to compile your own list, Scorpio. You're entering a time when you will be the beneficiary of magic in direct proportion to how much you believe in and are alert for magic. Why not go for the maximum?

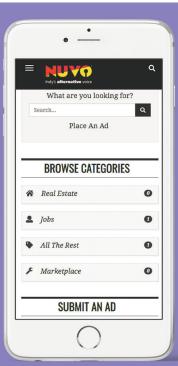
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Since 1969, eight-foot-two-inch-tall Big Bird has been the star of the kids' TV show Sesame Street. He's a yellow bird puppet who can talk, write poetry, dance, and roller skate. In the early years of the show, our hero had a good friend who no one else saw or believed in: Mr. Snuffleupagus. After 17 years, there came a happy day when everyone else in the Sesame Street neighborhood realized that Snuffy was indeed real, not just a figment of Big Bird's imagination. I'm foreseeing a comparable event in your life sometime soon, Sagittarius. You'll finally be able to share a secret truth or private pleasure or unappreciated asset.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Activist and author Simone de Beauvoir was one of those Capricorns whose lust for life was both lush and intricate. "I am awfully greedy," she wrote. "I want to be a woman and to be a man, to have many friends and to have loneliness, to work much and write good books, to travel and enjoy myself, to be selfish and to be unselfish." Even if your longings are not always as lavish and ravenous as hers, Capricorn, you now have license to explore the mysterious state she described. I dare you to find out how voracious you can be if you grant yourself permission.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): According to my reading of the astrological omens, the coming weeks will be prime time to vividly express your appreciation for and understanding of the people you care about most. I urge you to show them why you love them. Reveal the depths of your insights about their true beauty. Make it clear how their presence in your life has had a beneficent or healing influence on you. And if you really want to get dramatic, you could take them to an inspiring outdoor spot and sing them a tender song or two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In her book Yarn: Remembering the Way Home, Piscean knitter Kyoko Mori writes, "The folklore among knitters is that everything handmade should have at least one mistake so an evil sprit will not become trapped in the maze of perfect stitches." The idea is that the mistake "is a crack left open to let in the light." Mori goes on to testify about the evil spirit she wants to be free of. "It's that little voice in my head that says, 'I won't even try this because it doesn't come naturally to me and I won't be very good at it."" I've quoted Mori at length, Pisces, because I think her insights are the exact tonic you need right now.

HOMEWORK: Make a boast about how you'll pull off a feat you've previously lacked the chutzpah to attempt. Testify at Freewillastrology.com.



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